

40th ANNIVERSARY

SKHS 1970 – 2010

St Kilda Historical Society
formerly
Historical Society of St Kilda

PO Box 177 Balaclava 3183
Email: info@skhs.org.au
www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk

Office St Kilda Library
Hrs Thurs 10-12 & by appt
Ph 9537 1967 (Secretary)

Patron: Sir Zelman Cowan



GRAND
JUNCTION
HOTEL
cnr Barkly & High
Streets—slated to
be demolished for
road-widening in
the early 1970s and
catalyst for the
inaugural meeting
of The Historical
Society of St Kilda
Monday, April 5,
1970.
(Image SKHS)

March April May 2010

March

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

3pm Sunday March 14
Sam Everingham
"The Wild Ride: Cobb & Co"

April

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Monday April 5, SKHS' Birthday

6.30pm Thursday April 22
Maureen Walker
"The Home Front, St Kilda WW1"

May

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28-29	
30	31					

2pm Sat May 22
George Florence guided tour of
The Astor Theatre



FOUNDATION MEMBERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ST KILDA

5 April 1970

Source: SKHS Files

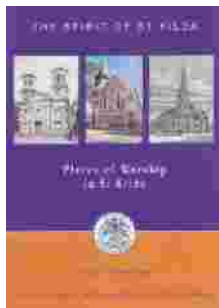
- | | | |
|------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) | Mr C L Cummins | St Leonards, St Leonards Ave |
| (2) | Mr & Mrs J. Moore | Berkeley Hall, Princes St |
| (3) | Mrs Watson | Wilson St, Glen Iris |
| (4) | Mrs Nyveger | Glenhuntly Rd, Elwood |
| (5) | Miss Mendes | Balaclava Rd, Caulfield |
| (6) | Mr & Mrs Fryer | 274 High St, St Kilda |
| (7) | Cr Tierney | c/-St Kilda City Hall |
| (8) | Mr Palmer | 628 High St, St Kilda |
| (9) | Mr Goulding | Princes St, St Kilda |
| (10) | Mrs Speed | North Rd, Elwood |

SKHS Presidents:- 1970 –1972 John Moore 1972–1975 Graeme Breydon
 1975–2000 Don Taggart 2001–2002 Micheal Crichton 2002–2009 Meyer Eidelson
 2009– Present Peter Johnson

Longest Serving Member: 1971 – Present Diane Nicholas

SKHS MAJOR PROJECTS: PAPERBACK PUBLICATIONS

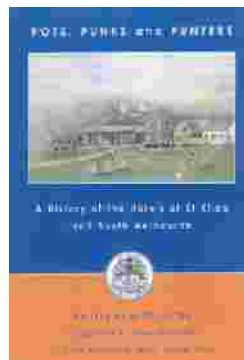
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 paperback (pbk) copies below may be purchased [except those labelled "web"] front desk St Kilda library
 or online www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk Inquiries:- Ph 9537 1967 info@skhs.org.au
 covers may be viewed in color on our website, click publications



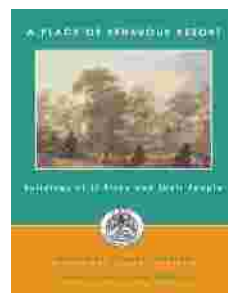
Spirit of St Kilda
2003 web



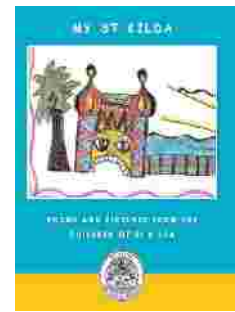
Screening of St Kilda
2003 web



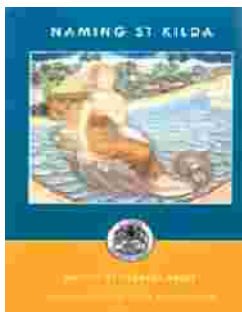
Pots, Punks and Punters
2004 web



A Place of Sensuous Resort
2005 web



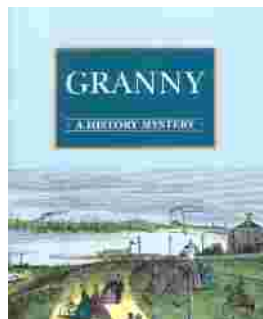
My St Kilda
2007 web



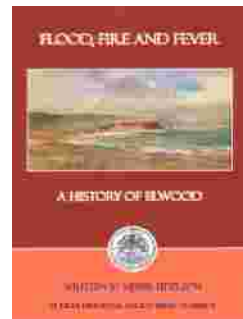
Naming St Kilda
2007 pbk



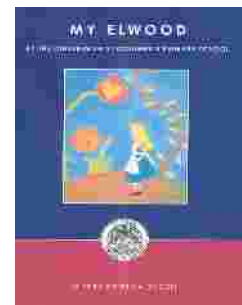
Voices From Elwood
2006 pbk



Granny
2004 pbk



Flood Fire & Fever
2006 web



My Elwood
2009 pbk

ST KILDA'S SHAPECHANGERS

Main Sources:

Longmire, A., *St Kilda: The Show Goes On**, The History of St Kilda, 1930–1983, Volume 111, SKHS Online Publication April 2010
Peterson, R., *A Place of Sensuous Resort; Buildings of St Kilda and Their People* (SKHS On-line Publication)
Smith, S., *Looking after the Little Ones, First 90 Years of St Kilda & Balaclava Kindergarten 1911–2001*

When the Historical Society of St Kilda was founded in April 1970, St Kilda had not only lost their Saints to Moorabbin, they had lost their reputation as a salubrious suburb.

From WW2 onwards St Kilda is mostly reported as being in the grip of conservative municipal staffers and councillors, commercial developers, building constructors, real estate agents* and businessmen.

Not to mention pro-freeway lobbyists, brothel and nightclub operators, as well as pimps and a few shady policemen who allegedly protected drug-dealers and backyard abortionists.

In addition, as car ownership increased during the 60s & 70s, street prostitution increased accordingly. Sex workers began openly plying their services to cater for the gutter-crawlers [mostly from other suburbs] who came to clog-up some of St Kilda's residential streets,

*Cr Gamon, a notable exception

PENDULUM SWING

But it wasn't just the sexual revolution that was in full swing in St Kilda.

Behind the scenes the cyber-revolution was taking place as were ecological, humanitarian and multicultural revolutions that blended and integrated old and newly-arrived St Kilda residents, whether temporary or permanent, rich or poor.

And, along with local activists¹, a local newspaper proprietor², a former librarian³ and other aficionados, residents worked towards remoulding St Kilda into one of the more socially aware, artistically vibrant and cosmopolitan suburbs in Australia.

1: For names of more local activists see SKHS ONLINE Longmire, Chapters 5 & 6

2: Peter Isaacson

3: Jeanette Love

LOCAL ACTIVIST

Former librarian, Jeanette (Jenny) Love was at the forefront of the local activists who picked up the baton for St Kilda in the marathon relay for basic community facilities and social welfare e.g. childcare, eldercare, kindergartens, youth clubs, community centres, and a public library.

During the 1960s, Jenny Love was the first ever parent president of the Free Kindergarten of St Kilda & Balaclava (est.1911).

She and her committee would also campaign vigorously for:- a 2nd kindergarten, more government funding for pre-school children and a free public library.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

It took a series of campaigns by groups of St Kilda residents over nearly six decades before St Kilda council agreed to re-establish the public lending library they closed in 1910. Thanks also go to the residents who elected Ivan Trayling to St Kilda council in 1967.

Council was then compelled to initiate a library building committee and for the first time they included community representatives. Among them: Jenny Love, Bernard Rechter, and Francis I. McCarthy.

The committee appointed Vida Horn as foundation librarian and commissioned Enrico Taglietti, a leading proponent of the 'Brutalist school' of architecture, as architect. The tender for construction was let to builders, M Notkin Construction, Caulfield Sth in 1971.



Cr Ivan Trayling & Librarian Vida Horn inspecting Foundation Stone Aug. 1972
Image: St Kilda Today, Aug 1972

ST KILDA LIBRARY

Sydney has the Opera House but Melbourne has St Kilda Library.

Architect Richard Petersen in SKHS' online publication *A Place of Sensuous Resort; Buildings of St Kilda and Their People*, Ch 32, writes that Taglietti's original design:

"...references St Kilda's waterfront location. It appears as if a sleek oceangoing cruiser has moored in Carlisle Street, its ten metre high 'smoke-stack' towering over 'saloon' windows and 'portholes' piercing its battleship grey flanks..."

No other building in Melbourne is directly comparable to Dr Taglietti's library. Other Brutalist concrete buildings are: the Plumbers' & Gasfitters' Employees Union, 62 Victoria Street, Carlton, Graeme C Gunn, 1972 and the Harold Holt Memorial Swim Centre, High Street, Glen Iris, Kevin Borland with Darryl Jackson, 1969.

Dr Taglietti's other major Melbourne building is 570 Collins Street, but some feel that his other buildings around Melbourne are not quite so unconstrained, nor so comfortably settled onto their sites as St Kilda Library."

ARCHITECT'S SKETCH

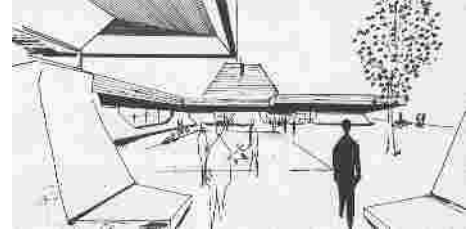


Image: St Kilda Today, Aug. 1971
first floor not constructed 1973
eastern facade altered 1992-94

JUST CAUSE

Author Anne Longmire in *St Kilda, The Show Goes On** (p229) notes:-

"Most importantly, the library stood as an affirmation of the dignity and right to knowledge of all who lived in St Kilda, no matter how short their stay, or how limited their financial resources, standing as a reminder to all, that if people worked for a just cause, they would eventually win through. Importantly, too, involvement in the long fight for the library taught those who struggled what it meant to win, and many joined other action groups afterwards."

*With support from City of Port Phillip, SKHS commissioned John Hulskamp & Assocs to prepare an electronic version of *St Kilda The Show Goes On*. Available from April 2010 on www.vicnet.net.au/hosok, click publications.

ART BANK

Since late 1970 when then Mayor, Cr Manning opened Art Bank on The Esplanade, around 200 artists and artisans showcase their works every Sunday.

One can choose from handmade jewellery, leather goods, pottery, ceramics, woodcarvings, paintings, imprints, fashion accessories and souvenirs.

Snippets from around 1970

Main sources: Ross, J., ed., Chronicle of the 20th Century, Chronicle Australia, Ringwood, 1990
Brown-May, A., ed., Encyclopedia of Melbourne, Cambridge University Press, Port Melbourne, 2005



To mark SKHS' 40th birthday, St Kilda Times took a quick trip down memory lane to recall who and what were making history in 1970

AUSTRALIA

POPULATION Australia 12, 663,469 (ABS 1971)

POPULAR FIRST NAMES: Michelle Rebecca Nicole Kylie Matthew Andrew David

Opposition leader Gough Whitlam (ALP) abandons White Australia policy.

Joh Bjelke Petersen Premier Qld since 1968. "Prince Leonard" secedes Hutt River Province from the Commonwealth

VICTORIA

1971 census: Population
St Kilda circa 61,000. Victoria circa 3million

Ivan Trayling elected to St Kilda Council 1967.

First St Kilda Easter festival held 1971

St Kilda Council combined with businessmen's groups and community organizations to stage the event. Features: Easter bonnet competition, fashion parade, Miss St Kilda Quest Entrants, Pet show, Pavement Art competition, Lucky Number draws, amusements, entertainment.

Dr Richard Love campaigns with Dr Bertrand Wainer to put an end to backyard abortions.

Dr Bertram Wainer, Surgery 338 Carlisle St. Residence Clyde St. Victorian Government sets up a Board of Inquiry to investigate an "Abortion Racket" involving police protection.

Prince Charles causes a furore.

He compares swimming off Elwood Beach to swimming in 'diluted sewerage' and prompts a local councillor to publicly drink a glass of sea water to prove otherwise.

Sir Henry Bolte, Premier of Victoria, 1955-1972 states that pollution of the mind is worse than pollution of the air, soil and water.

Tullamarine Airport opens (July 1) and first Jumbo jet lands.

35 workers die and 17 critically injured when a section of the West Gate Bridge buckles, 11.15am, October 15.

Underground City Rail Loop proposed.

Victoria believed to be first government in world to make seat belts in cars mandatory.

Premier Bolte blames Jim Cairns and Bob Hawke for the permissive society.

Penguin Books to appeal after being found guilty in Melbourne Magistrates Court for publishing and distributing an obscene article" - Portnoy's Complaint by Philip Roth.

Oh Calcutta!

The American nude revue Oh, Calcutta! prevented from opening at The Lido. A year later "the musical Hair with its nude finale caused little concern, probably due to the discreetly dim lighting in Metro Bourke Street, 1971." (Encycl. of Melbourne, p720)

ECONOMY (1970)

Bread 21cents a loaf

Milk 19c a quart

Eggs are 69c a dozen

Petrol 9.3c a litre

Women's Wool Skirts & Slacks
Fletcher Jones \$14.95

Shirts dry cleaned 25c ea

Aged Pension increases by 50c to \$15.50

\$215 for Brashs Modular Stereos
(w/trade-in)

Pioneer Express to Gold Coast,
1st class \$32.80

Shares in Poseidon (nickel) peak at \$280.00 in
March, \$51.00 by December.

Gold in free market falls below \$35 an ounce

Dow Jones Industrial Average 631

Median price of houses, St Kilda \$14,000

Inge Bros New Homes in Nth Balwyn from
c\$21,860

New Mazda 1300 sedan \$2190.00

POLITICS

John Grey Gorton, 19th PM
(1968-1971) announces (April 22) that 900
Australian troops (8th Battalion) will be
withdrawn from Vietnam in November
and more by April 1971.

Some 70 000 anti-Vietnam War shut down
central Melbourne on May 5, 1970 during a
moratorium calling for immediate withdrawal
of all Australian troops.

Billy Snedden describes organisers of the
moratorium as 'political bikies
pack-raping democracy'.

Conscription ends Dec1972.

Draft resisters released from jail and all
pending prosecutions dropped

Bob Hawke succeeds Albert Monk as President
of ACTU.

Victorian Branch of ALP dissolved.

POPULAR CULTURE

Books

The Female Eunuch by Elwood-born
Dr Germaine Greer creating shockwaves

Patrick White publishes The Vivisector

Barry Oakley publishes his satirical novel
Let's hear it for Prendergast

Movies

Paint your Wagon Five Easy Pieces
Catch 22 True Grit Slaughterhouse 5
Ryan's Daughter Airport
Mick Jagger plays Ned Kelly role.

Television

Graham Kennedy retires (returns 2yrs later)
This Day Tonight Homicide Pick-a-Box
Monty Python's Flying Circus Brady Bunch

Fun

John Famechon King of Moomba
Rubick's Cube 1974

Food

First ed. The Age Good Food Guide
McDonald's and Pizza Hut arrive

Fashion

Maxi taking over from the miniskirt
Hippy-locks Long Hair Caftans
Flares Platform shoes Sideburns
Big Lapels Afros Velour

300 boys at Mordialloc High School refuse to
return to class after 50 classmates ordered
home because their hair is too long

Top of the Pops 1969-70

Let it Be Bridge Over Troubled Waters
Close to You My Sweet Lord
Love Grows El Condor Pasa
Little Ray of Sunshine In the Summertime
Looking out my Backdoor Raindrops Keep
Falling on my Head First Step
Knock, Knock, Who's There?
Whole Lotta Love Wand'r'in' Star
Band of Gypsies Moondance
Voodoo Chile Sex Machine Paranoid
Get yr Ya Yas Out Wonder of You

SPORT

Carlton beats Collingwood
St Kilda Football Club moved to Moorabbin
1965. New VFL Mecca. Waverly Stadium
aka "Arctic Park", (now a housing estate)
opens. Fans complain of no public transport.

NZ horse, Baghdad Note wins Melb Cup.

GLOBAL

World Population estimated, 3.7 billion. Cyber Era. Civil Rights Movement. First Earth Day. Age of Aquarius.

Neil Armstrong walks on moon, 12.55pm (Melbourne time) July 21, 1969.

UK Labor (Harold Wilson) deploys military to Northern Ireland, August 1969, as "temporary operation to protect the civil rights" of Indigenous Irishmen. Labor loses general election, July 1970. Conservatives, led by Ted Heath, win election.

Beatles break up December 1970.